

(NE)

On page 18, at line 22, please delete "10" and replace with "2".

On page 23, after line 22, please insert the following paragraphs:

A5

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 199 11 084.0 of 12 March 1999 and International priority document PCT/EP00/01984 filed 08 March 2000.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 13, and replace them with the attached claims 14 - 33.

REMARKS

Claims 14 - 33 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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